

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

 222R042TAB Z

NEWS SERVICE

R K EZCUIVBYI

Date. 24 Aug

Item No. 2

Ref. No. _____

II ABC-BUCHANAN COLUMN ADV 28 2 TAKES 6500
 14THE DIVIDING LINE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL FEATURES MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO SUBSCRIBERS TO PATRICK J. BUCHANAN'S COLUMN OR BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.)

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1977 AND THEREAFTER
 14HELMS, KEARNEY AND CARTER JUSTICE
 14BY PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

WASHINGTON - ONE WONDERS IF ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL - BLITHELY PURSUING THE PROSECUTION OF EX-FBI AGENT JOHN KEARNEY - REALIZES THAT HE IS MARCHING HIS PRESIDENT RIGHT UP THE LITTLE BIGHORN. CANNOT PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAN SEE THE TREACHEROUS LEGAL AND POLITICAL TERRAIN ON WHICH THEY CURRENTLY STAND?

FOR 25 YEARS AN FBI AGENT OF UNIMPEACHABLE REPUTATION, JOHN J. KEARNEY STANDS INDICTED OF USING ILLEGAL WIRETAPS AND MAIL OPENINGS IN PURSUIT OF A GANG OF PROFESSED TERRORISTS THAT CALLS ITSELF THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND.

MEANWHILE, KEARNEY'S SUPERIOR, WHO REPORTEDLY KNEW OF AND AUTHORIZED SEVERAL ILLICIT ENTRIES, LAST WEEK WAS GIVEN A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. FURTHER, ALL CIA AGENTS WHO USED IDENTICAL TACTICS IN THE SAME YEARS AS KEARNEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY, TOO, WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, WHO EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZED SUCH TACTICS OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY HAS HIS NAME ENGRAVED ON THE NEW FBI BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS CONTINUE TO RISE TO THE MEMORY OF RFK, JFK, AND LBJ, ALL OF WHOM KNEW OF AND BENEFITED FROM THE USE OF ILLEGAL WIRETAPS - SUCH AS THE NOTORIOUS ONE PLACED ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE SELECTING OUT, THE SCAPE-GOATING OF KEARNEY HAS PRODUCED A DELUGE OF MAIL AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, RUNNING 100-TO-1 AGAINST THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN RAISED FOR KEARNEY'S DEFENSE. A BLUE-RIBBON ROSTER OF SUPPORTERS FOR THE EX-FBI AGENT HAS BEEN FORMED WHICH READS LIKE A WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN POLITICS. AND, IN FROM THE BULLPEN, TO HANDLE THE PITCHING CHORES AT KEARNEY'S TRIAL, COMES NOW E. BENNETT WILLIAMS.

AMONG THE FIRST DEMANDS OF KEARNEY'S LAWYERS IS A COMPLETE RUN-DOWN OF ALL ILLEGAL BREAK-INS, WIRETAPS AND MAIL OPENINGS DONE BY THE FBI BETWEEN 1947 AND 1972. WHAT A DAINY DISH THAT SHOULD BE TO SET BEFORE THE JURY.

Over

AS IF BELL DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH ON HIS PLATE HIS MINIONS AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ARE THINKING OF INDICTING FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS. HIS ALLEGED OFFENSE? WHEN PRESSED IN SENATE SESSION ON COVERT OPERATIONS IN CHILE, HELMS DID NOT INSTANTLY UPCHUCK EVERY SECRET HE KNEW.

CANNOT CARTER FATHOM THE MORAL DILEMMA OF A MAN IN HELMS'S POSITION? TO ANSWER THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHILEAN OPERATIONS WOULD HAVE COMPROMISED THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; UNDERMINED THE FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE - NO MATTER HOW UNAPPETIZING SOME MAY FIND IT - AND EXPOSED THE USA AND CIA TO FOREIGN PROPAGANDA ATTACK. BEYOND THIS, NO INTELLIGENCE SOURCE ABROAD COULD IN THE FUTURE PLACE CONFIDENCE IN A PROMISE OF CONFIDENTIALITY FROM THE CIA.

ASSUME, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, THAT PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT WERE ON THE CIA PAYROLL. IF QUESTIONED ABOUT SUCH A RUMOR IN PUBLIC SESSION, HOW SHOULD A HELMS RESPOND? IF HE TELLS THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH, HE BETRAYS AN ALLY AND COMPROMISES A GOVERNMENT UPON WHICH MAY DEPEND THE PEACE OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IF HE EVADES WITH A "NO COMMENT," THAT IS TANTAMOUNT TO ADMISSION OF THE TRUTH OF THE RUMOR. IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A HELMS, OR HIS SUCCESSOR, MAY BE UNDER A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PERJURE HIMSELF RATHER THAN BETRAY THE TRUTH.

IN ANY EVENT, CAN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NOT SEE THE UTTER ABSENCE OF CRIMINAL INTENT IN BOTH CASES?

HELMS SAID WHAT HE SAID; KEARNEY DID WHAT HE DID; NOT FOR PERSONAL GAIN, BUT TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES. FOR THIS, THEY ARE TO BE DRAGGED INTO THE DOCK IN DISGRACE; WHILE PRESIDENT COMPASSIONATE SIGNS BLANKET PARDONS FOR DRAFT-DODGERS WHO DESERTED THEIR COUNTRY TO SAVE THEIR WORTHLESS HIDES?

IS THIS CARTER'S IDEA OF EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW?

WE HAVE A NEW CIA DIRECTOR; A NEW MAN CHOSEN TO HEAD THE FBI. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD USE THE OCCASION TO WIPE CLEAN THE SLATE FOR BOTH; TO BRING AN END TO THIS DEMORALIZING ROOTING ABOUT IN AMERICA'S SECURITY AGENCIES; BY ORDERING DISMISSAL OF THE INDICTMENT OF KEARNEY; AND TERMINATION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF HELMS.

± -0-

± (C) 1977 PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

± SPECIAL FEATURES

±

· (TO PURCHASE THE ABOVE MATERIAL-CALL JESSE LEVINE OR WILLARD COLSTON IN NEW YORK (212) 371-1250 OR 371-1251.

0824 1544PED